

THE JOHNSTOWN DISASTER.

The Johnstown explosion, by which the lives of from 100 to 300 miners have suddenly been snuffed out, is probably the worst mining disaster in the history of the Pennsylvania coal fields. A lighted match, some careless act of the moment, has filled hundreds of homes with terror. Women wait despondently at the shaft for the decision in the awful lottery which is to determine whether they are wife or widow. It is a catastrophe of the kind always imminent, and as uncertain when it comes as the lightning stroke. The invented devices of a century now insure the miner a relative degree of safety, but they do not yet enable him to cope adequately with fire damp. This evil spirit of the mine is still ready to crush and rend at the first relaxation of vigilance.

A disaster of this sort reveals unemotional heroism of a rare kind. There is the wife waiting stolidly for the verdict. There is the entombed husband with a scant allowance of air left him waiting for the rescuer and estimating the chances of escape as each breath diminishes their number. The memory is still fresh of the Tennessee miners similarly entombed writing endearing messages of exceeding pathos to their loved ones left behind. Their lingering death was agony which the luckier ones killed outright missed, but they left a legacy of love priceless to those who mourn them.

THE MAYOR'S OPEN TALKS.

The first of Mayor Low's open talks with the public on city affairs is so good as to whet the appetite for others which are to follow. It was a clear and well considered discussion of the excessive and needless taxation from which the city suffers as a result of bad financing—a popular presentation of the sort of statistics which interest voters very intensely during the brief and acute period of campaign oratory and argument, but in which their interest speedily flags after election day.

Such a presentation on the weekly instalment plan during the administration's tenure of office of current problems in municipal government will serve the good purpose of making citizens well acquainted with these administrative problems and familiarizing them with the Mayor's confessed attitude thereon, so that on the approach of a mayoralty campaign the voter will be more competent to discuss such points than many of the public speakers who seek to enlighten him. He will have profited greatly by the weekly confidential talk with the Mayor himself.

POLICEMEN'S FRIENDS AT COURT.

In yesterday's trials of policemen those officers who counted confidently on the efficacy of a "pull" to let them down easy were disappointed. Patrolmen who had "sent a friend" to Deputy Commissioner Thurston to ease matters found themselves mulcted in fines of double severity. In explanation of this original course of procedure Col. Thurston said:

There have been a lot of people coming to me when policemen are up on trial to tell me what good men they are. They also call me up on the telephone, and won't let go till they tell me what they want to say. So I have made it a rule that when policemen send their friends to me this way, and I find when I try the case that they are guilty, I make the fine just double.

If consistently adhered to this practice will work an improvement of police discipline. It comes rather hard on the particular officers who feel the first force of the innovation, but it is unquestionably "for the good of the service" in indicating to the members of the force that they will be dealt with in accordance with their merits, regardless of political influence.

AN EVENING WORLD IDEA.

In discussing the growing frequency of accidents caused by horses which have been frightened by automobiles, The Evening World some months ago took occasion to recommend the institution of a school for timid equines where they might be familiarized with the puffing terrors and granted a certificate of proficiency before being permitted to draw a vehicle on a public highway.

This suggestion has been adopted in good faith by the Board of Governors of the Automobile Club of America. At their session yesterday they drafted a circular letter urging members to devote an hour or more each day in public squares to accustoming horses to the sight and sound of automobiles. The President of the board, Mr. Albert R. Shattuck, said that in three lessons of half an hour each "in a school he had established at Lenox" he had broken two green colts to the automobile so that he could drive his machine past them at thirty miles an hour without frightening them.

It is a good idea, and The Evening World, modestly assuming the credit for it which is its due, hopes it will be pushed along.

ANOTHER SHY AT SHAKESPEARE.

William Norman Guthrie, "Director of the Cincinnati Conference of Art and Literature," put himself on record at the University of Chicago yesterday as hoping that "the human race will so improve in the near future in its tastes and accomplishments that Shakespeare will be held to be unfit to read." Perhaps it could be proved to the professor's enlightenment that his "near future" is now here. Did not Williams College give Clyde Fitch an honorary degree at its recent commencement? It was not a D. D., though from the moral nature of Mr. Fitch's dramas it might have been. And are not the plays of Pinero and Henry Arthur Jones current literature where Shakespeare is forgotten or tabooed?

It is to be feared that the professor is belated in his discovery. Beside the finished creations of these dramatic artists the Bard of Avon's work is that of the unpractised amateur, so much mightier is the typewriter than the quill pen. Particularly is the rude and vigorous frankness of the Shakespearean treatment of love complications stable-minded by comparison with the parlor deportment of Mr. Pinero's people. It offends the delicate sensibilities of the Guthries everywhere and is quite obsolete.

Werdann Did His Duty.—Park Policeman Werdann arrested Max Hildeberg for creeping up behind a young couple in Central Park and frightening the young woman into hysterics. Magistrate Hogan fined Hildeberg and characterized his conduct as dishonorable. A transportation of names in the news report made Werdann the offender, and he was referred to editorially as such. The Evening World regrets that it should have thus inadvertently made the officer's very creditable act appear to his discredit.

A Name That Did Not Fit.—It is the irony of nomenclature which made the name of the "dog" in which the comedian, captured, named "the Blondie."

The Funny Side of Life.

RECKLESS BEHAVIOR OF A COWBOY.

JOKES OF OUR OWN.

TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING.
Although for flattery most people care, it is a thing of which we sometimes tire.
Just now we could do with much less hot air.
From Sol and G. Humidity, esquire.

A GOOD REASON.
"Why have they dated the coronation for next month?"
"So that it will lose none of its August splendor by further delay."

A POSER.
"The universe owes me a living."
"What will you do if it refuses payment?"

BEYOND THE LAW.
"There's one case where I wish the Anti-Scorching law could be enforced."
"Against whom?"
"Against old Sol."

PLENTY OF AIR.
"Was it cool at the ball game?"
"Well, rather. Two thousand fans were working for all they were worth."

BORROWED JOKES.
CARELESS DESIGN.
Bibbs—That girl seems awfully careless. She can never keep her shoestrings tied.
Slobbs—That isn't carelessness, you chump! Can't you see what a pretty ankle she has?—Philadelphia Record.

ANXIOUS TO LEARN.
"And so you have no new words in your language, Mr. Omokura?"
"No, madam," the Japanese traveller replied.
"But, of course, you can think such thoughts I suppose, can't you?"—Chicago Record Herald.

AS USUAL.
Adit—Who was that girl you introduced me to who uses so much slang?
Tellit—Oh, she's a friend of mine who is taking a post-graduate course in English at a female seminary.—Ohio State Journal.

UNTRAMMELED MAN.
Mrs. Dash—Don't you ever visit in summer?
Mrs. Rash—Oh, no. David always wants to go where he can pay board and act disgracefully when he feels like it.—Detroit Free Press.

SOME BODIES.
BOTH, GEN.—is coming here with De Wet and Delany to raise money for Boers ruined by the war. Com Paul Kruger will not join the party.

CARNEGIE, ANDREW. will receive next week the freedom of the city of St. Andrew's, Scotland. The town, oddly enough, was not named for him.

FAIRFAX, LORD A. K.—twelfth Baron Cameron, was the only American man of title invited to the coronation. He has come back to New York.

KAISER WILHELM.—can live comfortably on his order of decorations if he ever loses his job of Kaiserling. These medals are worth \$25,000 and number over 200.

MODERWELL, E. C.—of Chicago, received the largest pension awarded to any old soldier during the late Billion-Dollar Session of Congress.

ROSEBERRY, LORD.—is said to have written a novel, but fears to publish it at present lest it might injure his political influence.

YESTERDAY AND TO-DAY.
Yesterday, God's day, I spent in holy thought, in calm content, Amidst the ferns and grasses sweet, Where, here and there, about my feet, I found this little flower.

I'd longed for such a day to be—When every vine and bush and tree Should dawn its robe of verdant hue; Then I should gather, dear, for you, This little purple flower.

And now my joy has passed away; 'Tis but a memory to-day—My happiness to you I lend, In that these violets I send, May brighten up an hour.

As with all joys, their reign is short—No pleasure that hath e'er been sought, No happiness, however great, Did permanently satiate—We're happy but an hour.

—Alice G. Kelley, in Boston Globe.

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